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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To require the Secretary of Education to enter into an agreement with the National Academies to conduct a study on the possible mental health effects of a lockdown drill or active shooter drill in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. PETTERSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Education to enter into an agreement with the National Academies to conduct a study on the possible mental health effects of a lockdown drill or active shooter drill in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “School Safety Drill
5 Research Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY AND REPORT ON MENTAL EFFECTS OF**
2 **LOCKDOWN DRILL OR ACTIVE SHOOTER**
3 **DRILL IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY**
4 **SCHOOLS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall
6 enter into an agreement with the National Academies of
7 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the Na-
8 tional Academies shall conduct a study on the mental
9 health effects resulting from a lockdown drill or active
10 shooter drill in elementary and secondary schools.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study conducted under sub-
12 section (a) shall include—

13 (1) an assessment of the extent to which a
14 lockdown drill or active shooter drill results in ad-
15 verse psychological effects on students, faculty, and
16 staff of elementary and secondary schools;

17 (2) a comparison of the mental effects of a
18 lockdown drill or active shooter drill, including—

19 (A) the effects of active shooter simula-
20 tions, full-scale lockdowns, and secured-perim-
21 eter lockouts;

22 (B) the effects of announced versus unan-
23 nounced drills; and

24 (C) the effects of drills of varying fre-
25 quencies;

1 (3) an analysis of the effects of a lockdown drill
2 or active shooter drill on—

3 (A) students of different ages or grade lev-
4 els; and

5 (B) students with intellectual or develop-
6 mental disabilities;

7 (4) the identification of best practices for—

8 (A) accommodating—

9 (i) students of different ages and
10 grade levels;

11 (ii) students and staff with a history
12 of prior trauma;

13 (iii) students for whom English is a
14 second language; and

15 (iv) students with developmental and
16 physical disabilities;

17 (B) training faculty and staff to recognize
18 traumatic stress reactions;

19 (C) the provision of mental health supports
20 during and after a drill by a school-based men-
21 tal health services provider;

22 (D) discussing school violence with stu-
23 dents; and

24 (E) keeping parents and the community in-
25 formed about drills, including—

1 (i) the type of information commu-
2 nicated to parents, emergency dispatchers,
3 and the community before and after a drill;
4 and

5 (ii) the resources given to assist par-
6 ents in talking with children about con-
7 cerns or fears related to violence at school;
8 and

9 (5) an analysis of other studies and reports ex-
10 amining the effects of a lockdown drill or active
11 shooter drill on student and staff mental health.

12 (c) REPORT.—The agreement entered into under sub-
13 section (a) shall include a requirement that, not later than
14 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the
15 National Academies shall—

16 (1) compile a report on the results of the study
17 conducted under subsection (a);

18 (2) make such report publicly available on the
19 website of the National Academies; and

20 (3) provide a briefing to Congress on the results
21 of the study conducted under subsection (a).

22 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out this
24 Act.

1 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the following defini-
2 tions apply:

3 (1) ACTIVE SHOOTER SIMULATION.—The term
4 “active shooter simulation” means a drill in which
5 acts mimicking an active shooter situation are simu-
6 lated, including any of the following:

7 (A) The activation of emergency alarms.

8 (B) The presence of an active shooter or
9 law enforcement officer, or both, inside a
10 school.

11 (C) The firing of a gun with blanks.

12 (D) The sound of a gun being fired.

13 (E) An attempt by an intruder to breach
14 classroom doors inside a school.

15 (F) The expectation that individuals inside
16 the school will fight an intruder.

17 (2) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.—The term “elemen-
18 tary school” has the meaning given the term in sec-
19 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
20 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

21 (3) FULL-SCALE LOCKDOWN.—The term “full-
22 scale lockdown” means a drill in which all doors of
23 a school are locked, all windows of the school are
24 covered, and students and faculty must remain silent

1 and hidden, but in which an active shooter is not
2 simulated.

3 (4) LOCKDOWN DRILL OR ACTIVE SHOOTER
4 DRILL.—The term “lockdown drill or active shooter
5 drill” means a procedure in which a school practices
6 an emergency protocol designed to protect students
7 and faculty against assault by an armed assailant.

8 (5) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDER.—
9 The term “mental health services provider” means a
10 State-licensed or State-certified school counselor,
11 school psychologist, or school social worker, or a
12 mental health professional qualified under State law
13 to provide mental health services to children and
14 adolescents.

15 (6) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
16 ondary school” has the meaning given the term in
17 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
18 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

19 (7) SECURED-PERIMETER LOCKOUT.—The term
20 “secured-perimeter lockout” means a drill in which
21 the outside building doors of a school are locked and
22 there is no entry or exit allowed to or from the
23 school, but teachers continue with instruction.